

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

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Wednesday, December 7, 2022

Start: 11:22 a.m.

Recess: 11:45 a.m.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM, CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Kamillah Hanks, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Joann Ariola  
Erik D. Bottcher  
Justin L. Brannan  
Tiffany Cabán  
Carmen N. De La Rosa  
Robert F. Holden  
Rita C. Joseph  
Darlene Mealy  
Althea V. Stevens  
Linda Lee

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

2 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good morning and welcome to  
3 today's New York City Council vote on the Committee  
4 on Public Safety. At this time, please silence all  
5 electronic devices. Chair we are ready to begin.

6 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: [GAVEL]

7 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Good morning. My name is  
8 Kamillah Hanks, and I'm the chair on the Committee of  
9 Public Safety. I'd like to welcome you to our vote  
10 today on the proposed Introduction number 759 B,  
11 sponsored by Councilmember Linda Lee. I would also  
12 like to recognize my fellow council members:  
13 Brennan, Ariola, Bottcher, De La Rosa, and Stevens,  
14 and Councilmember Lee, thank you.

15 COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you so much.

16 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: This common-sense legislation  
17 would require NYPD to provide the public with  
18 etchings that affix or engrave identifying numbers  
19 onto catalytic converters of vehicles for the purpose  
20 of assisting law enforcement investigations and  
21 deterring theft of such parts. Additionally, NYPD  
22 would be required to conduct public outreach  
23 regarding the availability of etchings and the means  
24 by which etching may prevent theft of catalytic  
25 converters. As New York City continues to experience

2 high rates of auto theft and particularly stark  
3 increases in catalytic converter theft, this common-  
4 sense legislation will play an important role in  
5 preventing this very type of theft.

6 I would like to turn it over to Councilmember Lee  
7 to deliver a statement about her bill. Councilmember  
8 Lee, congratulations.

9 COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you so much Chair  
10 Hanks, and thank you everyone who's on the Public  
11 Safety Committee. I'm proud to be introducing this  
12 legislation today to combat the exponential rise in  
13 catalytic converter thefts. Thefts of these devices  
14 have nearly quadrupled in the city this year, leaving  
15 victims with \$5,000 to \$10,000 worth of damages to  
16 their cars. And this actually happened to one of my  
17 staff members as well. Amidst rising inflation and  
18 an already difficult economy, New Yorkers should not  
19 have to live with this burden. Intro 759 would  
20 establish a catalytic converter etching program to  
21 distribute VIN etching kits to not only use in new  
22 car dealers, but also to the general public. And the  
23 bill would invest and expand on the good but  
24 overstretched work that the NYPD has already been  
25 doing on this issue.

2           So hopefully this bill will be a nice complement  
3 to the one that I know that Councilmember Brewer had  
4 introduced last session. So thank you so much, and  
5 hopefully you can support this bill.

6           CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Thank you. I would like to  
7 recognize Councilmember Holden and Councilmember  
8 Cabán that are on line with us.

9           Thank you, Councilmember Lee I will now call on  
10 the clerk to call the roll. Thank you.

11           CLERK: Greetings. My apologies. William  
12 Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call vote, Committee  
13 on Public Safety, proposed Introduction 759 B. Chair  
14 Hanks?

15           CHAIRPERSON HANKS: I am proud to be a prime co-  
16 sponsor on this legislation. I hope it will make a  
17 meaningful difference. I vote aye.

18           CLERK: Thank you. Brannan?

19           COUNCILMEMBER BRANNAN? Aye.

20           CLERK: Holden?

21           COUNCILMEMBER HOLDEN: Aye.

22           CLERK: Thank you. Cabán?

23           COUNCILMEMBER CABÁN: Aye.

24           CLERK: Thank you. Bottcher?

25           COUNCILMEMBER BOTTCHER: Aye.

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2 CLERK: De La Rosa?

3 COUNCILMEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye.

4 CLERK: Joseph?

5 COUNCILMEMBER JOSEPH: Aye.

6 CLERK: Mealy?

7 COUNCILMEMBER MEALY: Aye.

8 CLERK: Stevens?

9 COUNCILMEMBER STEVENS: Aye.

10 CLERK: Ariola?

11 COUNCILMEMBER ARIOLA: I vote aye.

12 CLERK: By a vote of 8 in the affirmative and 0

13 in the negative, and no abstentions, the item is

14 adopted by the committee.

15 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Thank you so much. And thank

16 you to the Council staff and Public Safety staff.

17 And with that I have this meeting adjourned.

18 Oh, so apologies. I'm going to keep this meeting

19 open for additional votes.

20 CLERK: Quiet please. Quiet.

21 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Quiet please.

22 CLERK: Continuation of roll call, the Committee

23 on Public Safety. Councilmember Joseph?

24 COUNCILMEMBER JOSEPH: Aye.

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2 CLERK: Thank you. The vote is now at 9 in the  
3 affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions.

4 Alright. Final vote. Committee on Public  
5 Safety, proposed Introduction 759 A, 9 in the  
6 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions.  
7 Thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Thank you so much. And with  
9 that, this meeting is adjourned.

10 [GAVEL]

11 CLERK: Quiet please in the committee room.  
12 Continuation vote, Committee on Public Safety,  
13 proposed Introduction 759 B. Councilmember Mealy?

14 COUNCILMEMBER MEALY: I vote aye. And I want to  
15 thank...

16 CLERK: The final vote now on this committee is  
17 10 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no  
18 abstentions. Councilmember Mealy to close.

19 COUNCILMEMBER MEALY: The Public Safety hearing  
20 meeting is now closed.

21 [GAVEL]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date 12/13/2022